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Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY
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DIST 13 JANUARY 1968

COUNTRY: LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI: 12 JANUARY 1968

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK ON PHOU PHA THI (SITE 85)

ACQ: LAOS, VIENTIANE (13 JANUARY 1968) FIELD NO:

SOURCE:

1. FOUR DARK GREEN AIRCRAFT FLYING IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION PASSED THE VICINITY OF MUONG SANG (UH 8350) AT 1300 HOURS ON 12 JANUARY. WHEN THE FOUR AIRCRAFT REACHED BAN HOUET SOU (UH 7852), TWO OF THE AIRCRAFT, BROKE FROM FORMATION AND ORBITED IN THE HOUET SOUK AREA, WHILE THE SECOND TWO AIRCRAFT, WHICH WERE AN-2 COLTS, CONTINUED TO PHOU PHA THI (UH 6860) AND COMMENCED BOMBING RUNS WHILE FLYING ON AN APPROXIMATE HEADING OF 304 DEGREES. [] COMMENT: [] CONTAINED A PRELIMINARY

ACCOUNT OF THE ATTACK ON PHOU PHA THI.)

2. EACH OF THE TWO ATTACKING AIRCRAFT MADE ONE BOMBING AND STRAFFING RUN AT 1310 HOURS. TWO WOMEN CIVILIANS AND TWO GUERRILLA

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SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED BY BOMBS. ONE MAN WAS WOUNDED BY FLYING DEBRIS. THE BOMBS, WHICH ALL APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN 250 POUNDS, INFLECTED SLIGHT DAMAGE TO SOME BUILDINGS, MOST OF WHICH WERE BILLET.

3. THE FIRST AIRCRAFT CRASHED AND BURNED IN THE VICINITY OF UH 606865 SHORTLY AFTER IT HAD COMPLETED ITS BOMBING RUN. A GROUND TEAM FROM PHOU PHA THI SEARCHED THE AREA AT 1600 HOURS ON 12 JANUARY AND REPORTED NOTHING WAS SALVAGEABLE. SEVERAL ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE ALSO HIT THE SECOND AIRCRAFT, WHICH BORE TAIL NUMBER 665, AS IT MADE ITS BOMBING RUN. IT CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF UH 570895.

4. A GROUND TEAM THAT REACHED THE CRASH SITE AT UH 5789 AT 1600 HOURS ON 12 JANUARY RECOVERED TWO OF THREE BODIES IN THE AIRCRAFT. THE TEAM COULD NOT REMOVE A THIRD BODY WHICH WAS WEDGED IN THE WRECKAGE. THE TEAM REPORTED ALL OCCUPANTS OF THE AIRCRAFT APPEARED TO BE VIETNAMESE. THE TEAM ALSO RECOVERED A SOVIET MANUFACTURED HF RADIO AND A SET OF 71 ACCESSORY CRYSTALS AND CHARTS AND NOTEBOOKS IN VIETNAMESE. ONE AERONAUTICAL CHART WAS

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ANNOTATED AND SHOWED THE FOLLOWING FLIGHT ROUTE DIRECT TO PHOU
PHA THI: DUC THANG (XJ 0262) TO CANH MEO (WH 0274) TO SOP HAO
(UH 4373), TO MUONG HAM (UH 9747) TO MUONG YUT (UH 7156) TO
PHOU PHA THI. THE RETURN ROUTE WAS PLOTTED FROM PHOU PHA THI
TO MUONG HET (UJ 9702) TO YEN CHAU (VJ 3926) TO VAN YEN (VJ 7129)
TO SON TAY (WJ 5338) TO DUC THANG.

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID USIS USMACV
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